

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4093

To secure the voting rights of former felons who have been released from incarceration.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1994

Mr. CONYERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To secure the voting rights of former felons who have been released from incarceration.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Voting Rights of  
5       Former Offenders Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.**

7       The right of a citizen of the United States, who other-  
8       wise is qualified, to vote in any election for Federal office  
9       shall not be denied or abridged because he has committed  
10      a criminal offense unless such citizen is imprisoned in a

1 correctional institution or facility at the time of such elec-  
2 tion.

3 **SEC. 3. STATE REQUIREMENTS.**

4 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the  
5 States from establishing requirements for the holding of  
6 State or local elective office; nor from enacting any State  
7 law which affords the right to vote in any election for Fed-  
8 eral office on terms less restrictive than those established  
9 by this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. FINES.**

11 Whoever shall intentionally deny or attempt to deny  
12 any person any right secured by this Act shall be fined  
13 not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than one  
14 year, or both.

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act—

17 (1) the term “correctional institution or facil-  
18 ity” means any prison, penitentiary, jail, or other in-  
19 stitution or facility for the confinement of individ-  
20 uals convicted of criminal offenses, except that such  
21 term does not include any residential community  
22 treatment center (or similar public or private facil-  
23 ity);

24 (2) the term “election” means (A) a general,  
25 special, primary, or runoff election, (B) a convention

1 or caucus of a political party held to nominate a  
2 candidate, (C) a primary election held for the selec-  
3 tion of delegates to a national nominating conven-  
4 tion of a political party, or (D) a primary election  
5 held for the expression of a preference for the nomi-  
6 nation of persons for election to the office of Presi-  
7 dent; and

8 (3) the term “Federal office” means the office  
9 of President or Vice President of the United States,  
10 or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or  
11 Resident Commissioner to, the Congress of the  
12 United States.

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